

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph starting at page 6, line 24 and ending at page 7, line 20.

--In the projection optical systems shown in Japanese Laid-Open Patent Applications, Laid-Open Nos. 163319/1988, 188298/1993 and 230287/1994, the structure is complicated due to deflection and bend of the optical path. Since most of the power of optical groups for imaging an intermediate image, as a final image, is sustained by concave mirror, it is structurally difficult to enlarge the NA. The magnification of the lens system which is disposed between the concave mirror and the image plane is at a reduction ratio and also it has a positive sign. Because of it, a sufficient image-side working distance cannot be kept. Further, in order that the object plane and the image plane are placed opposed, it is necessary to use two flat mirrors only for the sake of deflection of the optical path, without any contribution to aberration correction. As the exposure wavelength is ~~shorted~~ shortened to 157 nm, this is undesirable also with respect to the loss of light quantity. Further, it is structurally difficult to hold the imaging region width because of the necessity of light path division. Since the optical system has to be large, there is a disadvantage with respect to the footprint.--